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TRANSFORMERS
WAR WITHIN
THE AGE OF WRATH
Furman
Ng
1984 - 2004
20TH
ANNIVERSARY
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WAR WITHIN
THE AGE OF WRATH
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#ComicScan

The malevolent Megatron is back from the dead and in total control of civil war-era Cybertron, his rule enforced by a massed army of clone troopers, the dreaded Aerospace Extermination Squadron. The Autobots are all either enslaved, forced to work on an excavation that reaches to the very core of Cybertron or, like Dynobot commander Grimlock, dead. All, that is, except for a small, determined force led by Blaster and Perceptor...
"AND I THOUGHT-- THAT'S *IT*...I'VE DATA-PLUGGED MY LAST REPORT!"
"THIS IS *SLAMDANCE*, LIVE FROM IACON'S CHAMBER OF THE ANCIENTS...*SIGNING OFF!*"
THE AGE OF WRATH Pt.3
Writer SIMON FURMAN
Pencils JOE NG
Inks TRACY HO
ERIK SANDER
Additional Inks FERO POBLETE
Colors JOSH BURCHAM
Additional Colors ROB RUFFOLO
ERIC BURNS
Letters BEN LEE
TRANSFORMERS.COM
TRANSFORMERS WAR WITHIN "The Age of Wrath", Issue 3, Vol. 2, November 2004. First Printing. Published by Dreamwave Productions, 11 Allstate Parkway, Suite 200, Markham, Ontario L3R 9T8, Canada. HASBRO and its logo, TRANSFORMERS and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2004 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, or institutions with those of the living or dead is unintentional and purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be printed without the permission of the respective owners. Printed in Canada.
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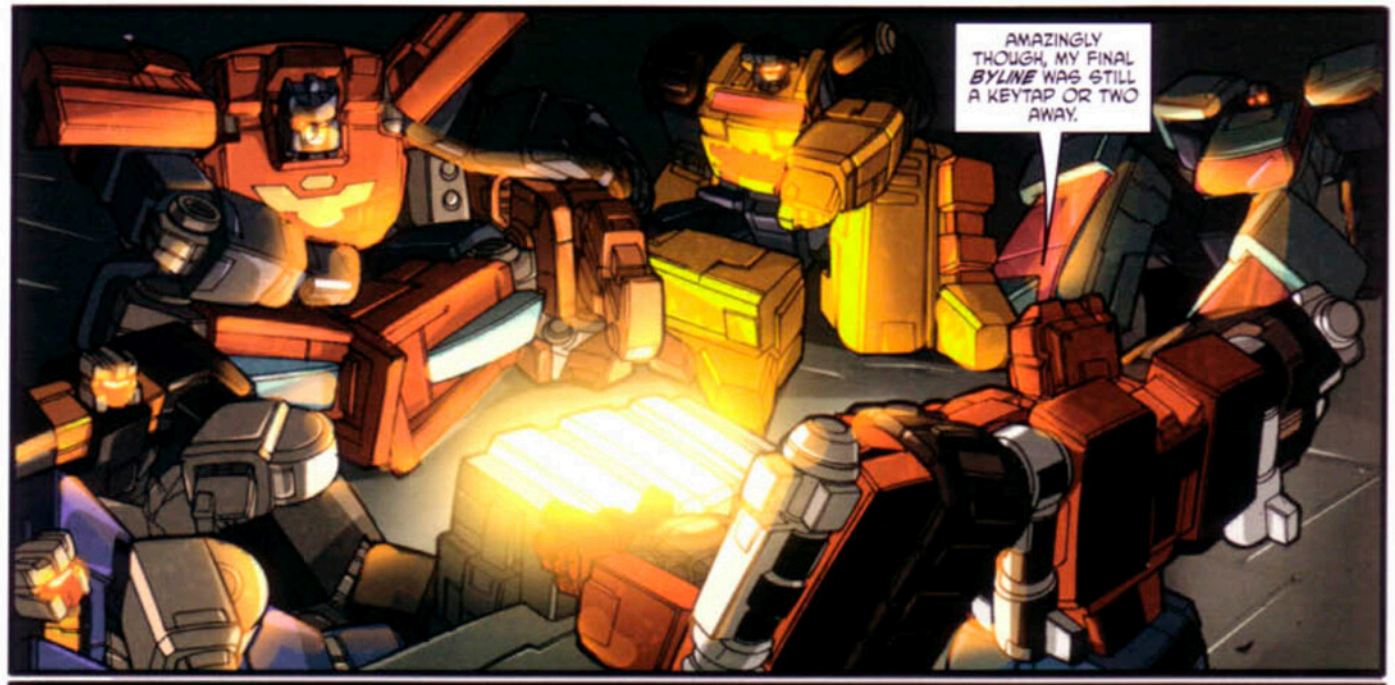

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A SENTIENT MAINFRAME, THE COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS--IT'S SAID--OF CYBERTRON ITSELF.

I WAS, I REALISED, IN THE PRESENCE OF GHOSTS, UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH OUR PLANET'S SHROUDED, MURKY PAST. HERE LAY MYSTERIES THAT REACHED BACK BEFORE THE DAWN OF RECORDED TIME AND--

AHEM!

PERHAPS, SLAMDANCE, INSTEAD OF RECOUNTING--FOR THE QUOTEENTH TIME--YOUR ADMITTEDLY FORTUITOUS DISCOVERY OF A MUCH-NEEDED BOLT-HOLE IN TROUBLED TIMES, YOUR VERBOSITY WOULD BE BETTER SERVED VOICE-CODING THE MARKER BUOYS FOR THE DESCENT.

UM, I... YES, RIGHT AWAY. HEH...

FLASH, BOSS, SCORCH, HURRICANE... YOU WERE DUE IN THE THINK-TANK TEN NGS AGO.

MORE THEORETICAL COUNTER-STRATEGY. LUCKY US!

WHEN ARE WE GOING TO SEE SOME ACTION, PERCEPTOR? I'M TIRED OF ALL THIS STANDING STILL.

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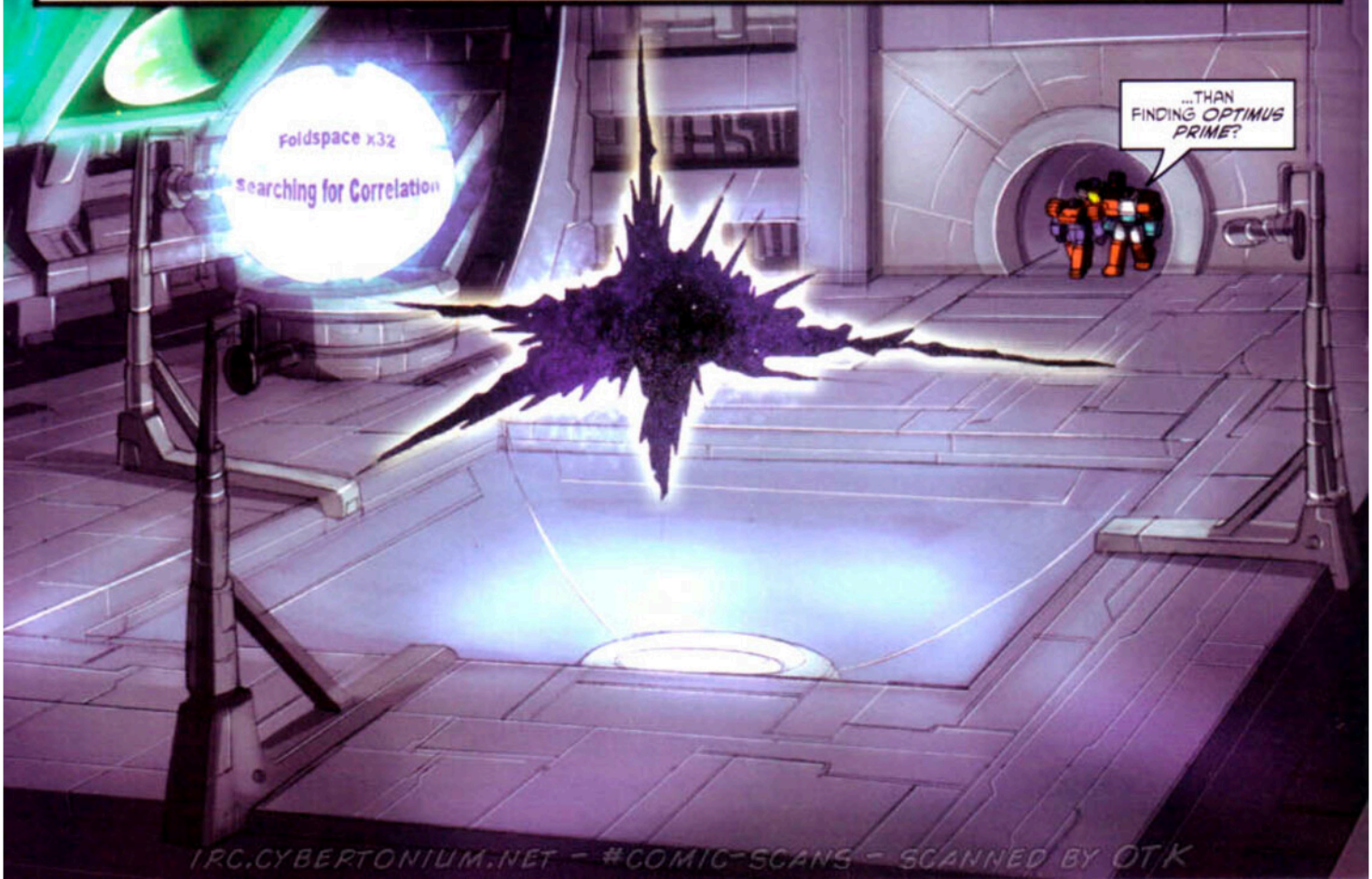

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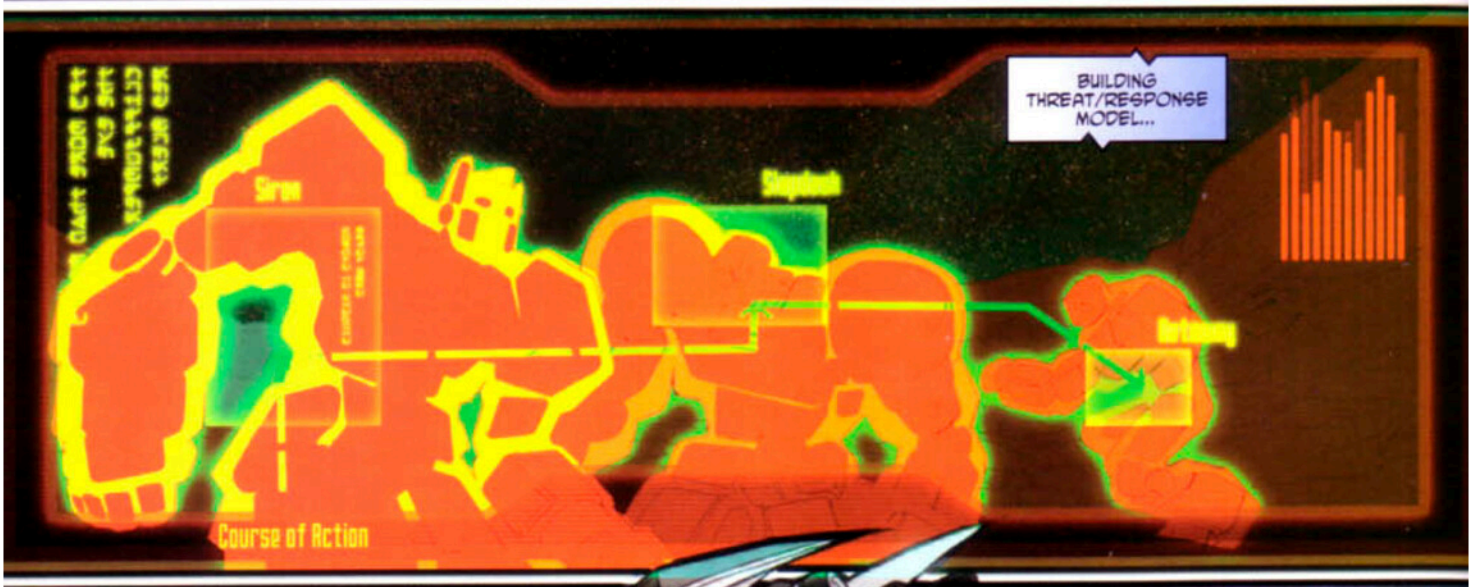

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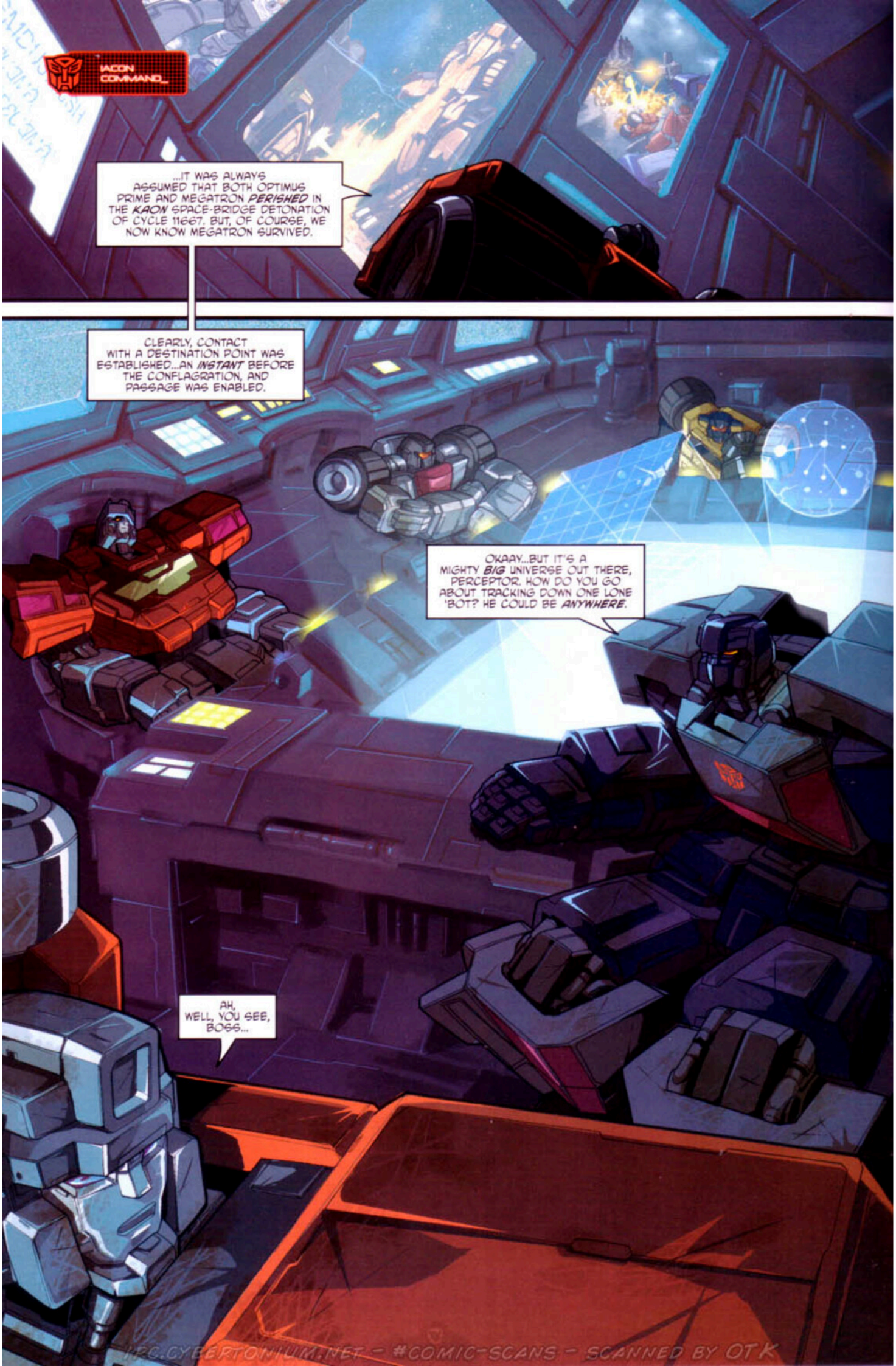

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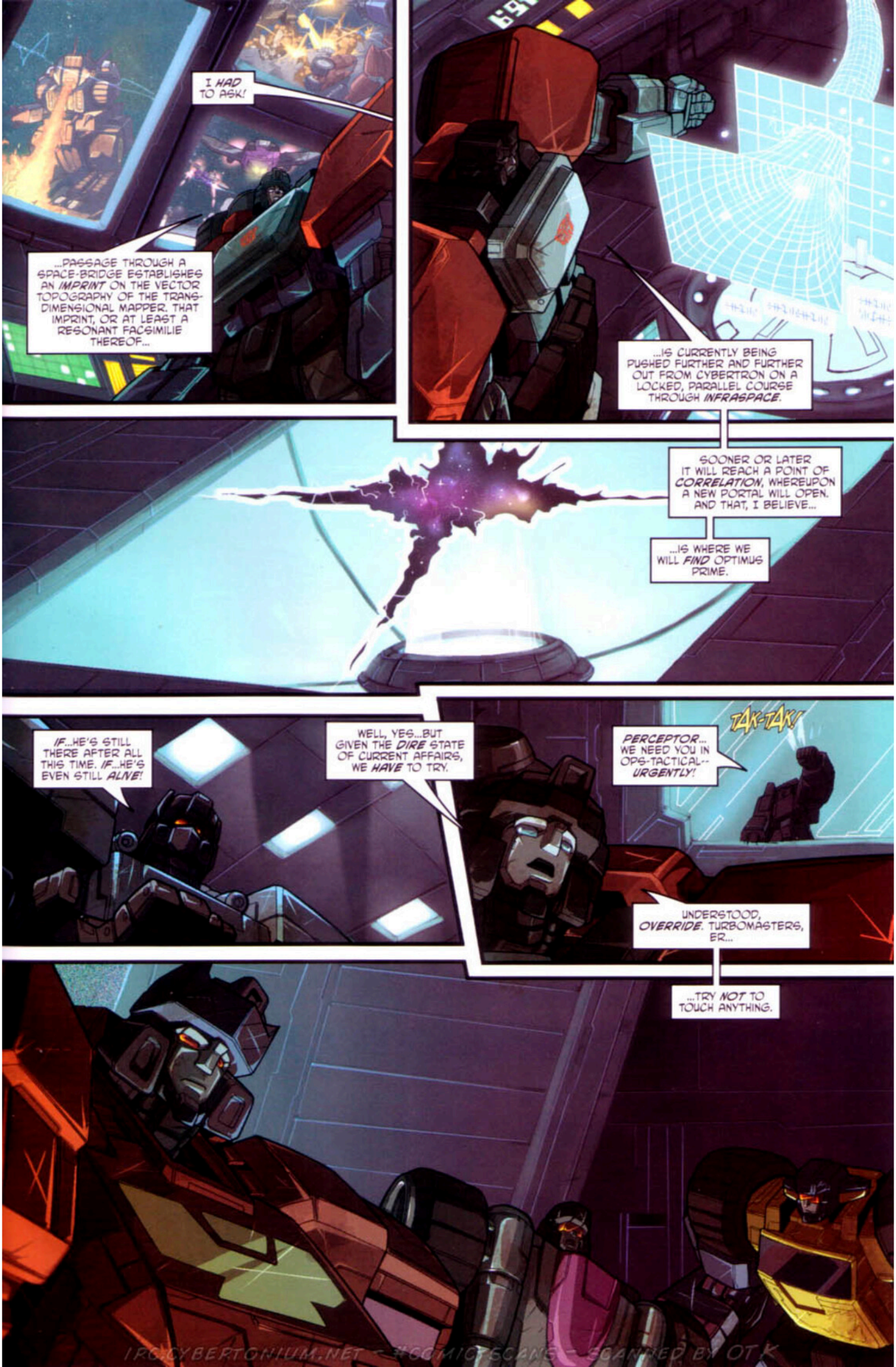

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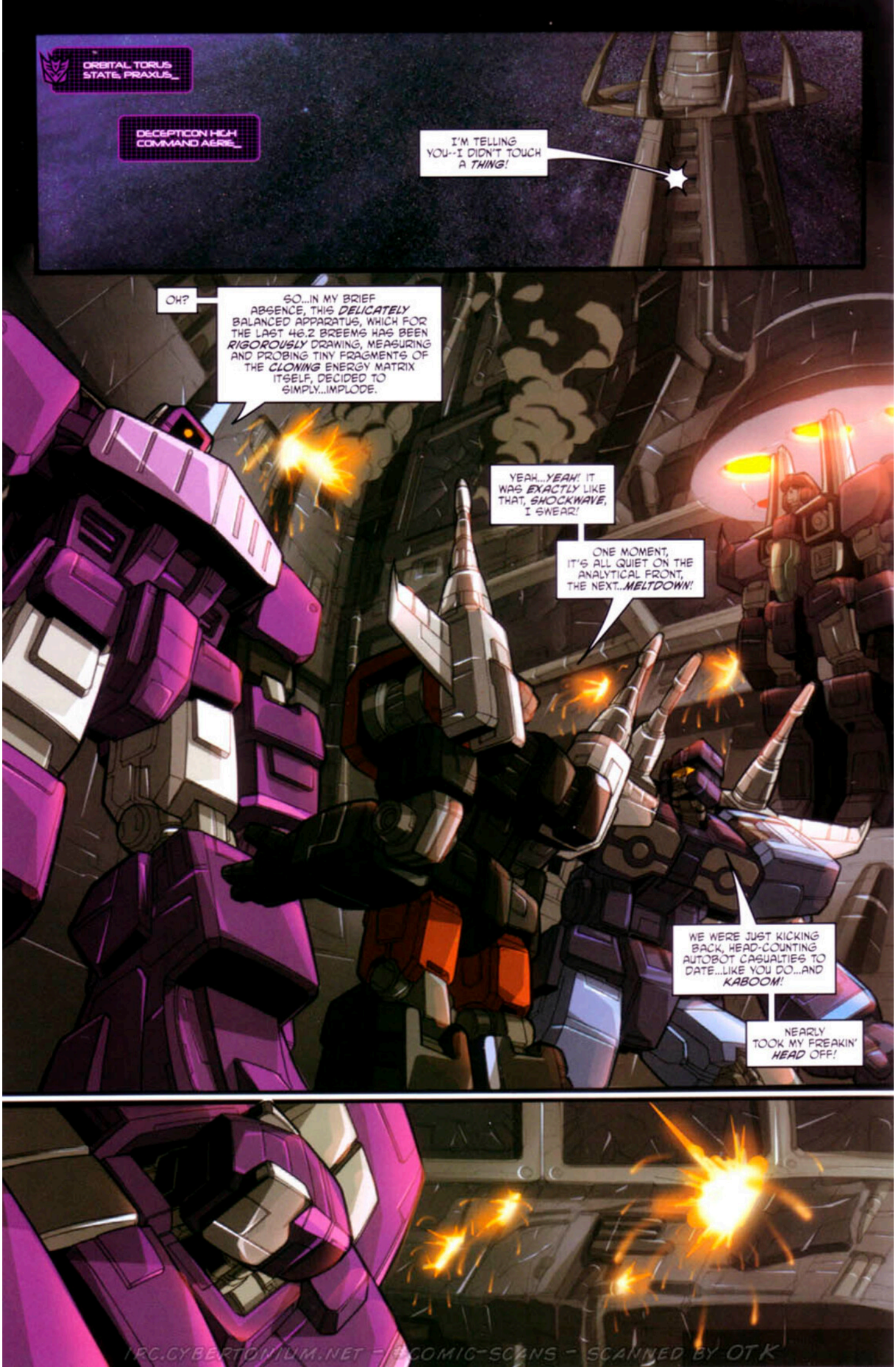

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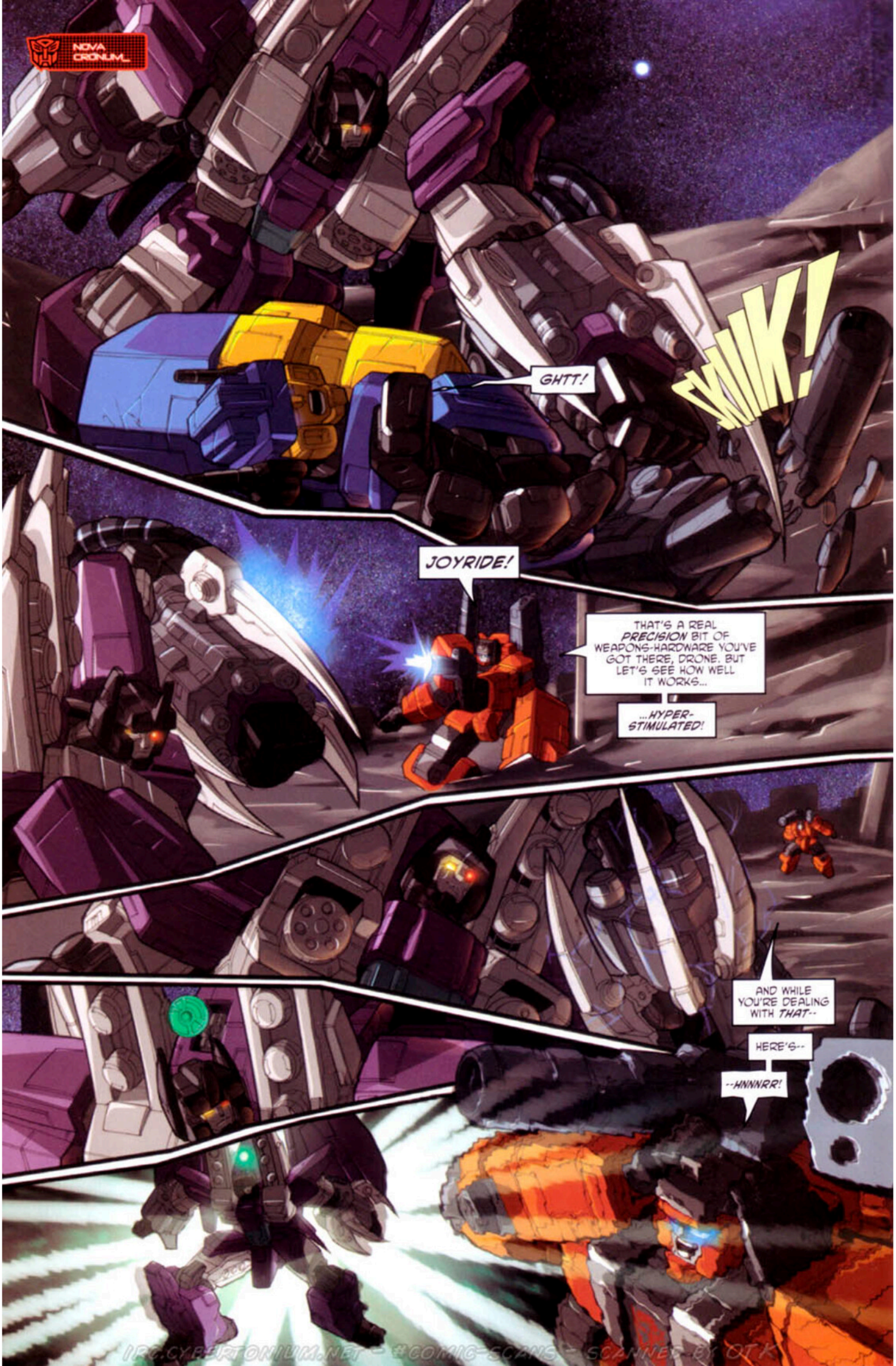

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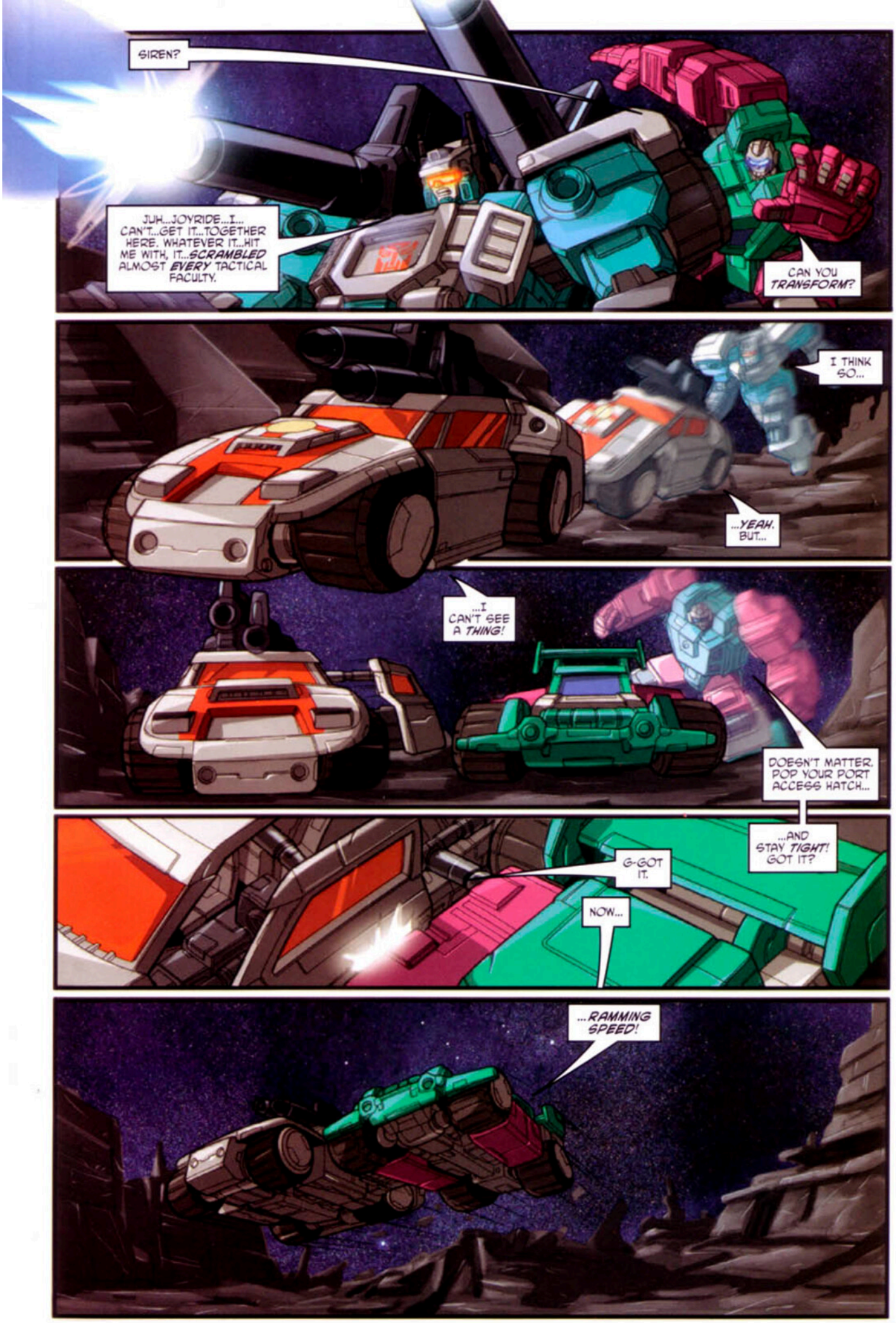

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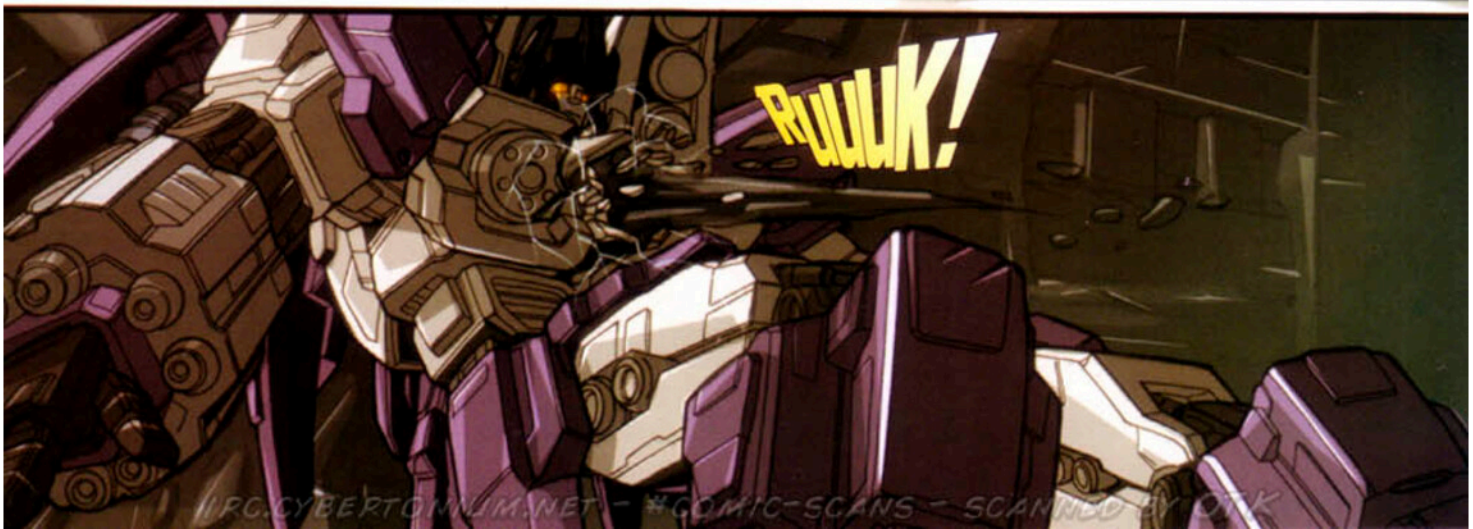

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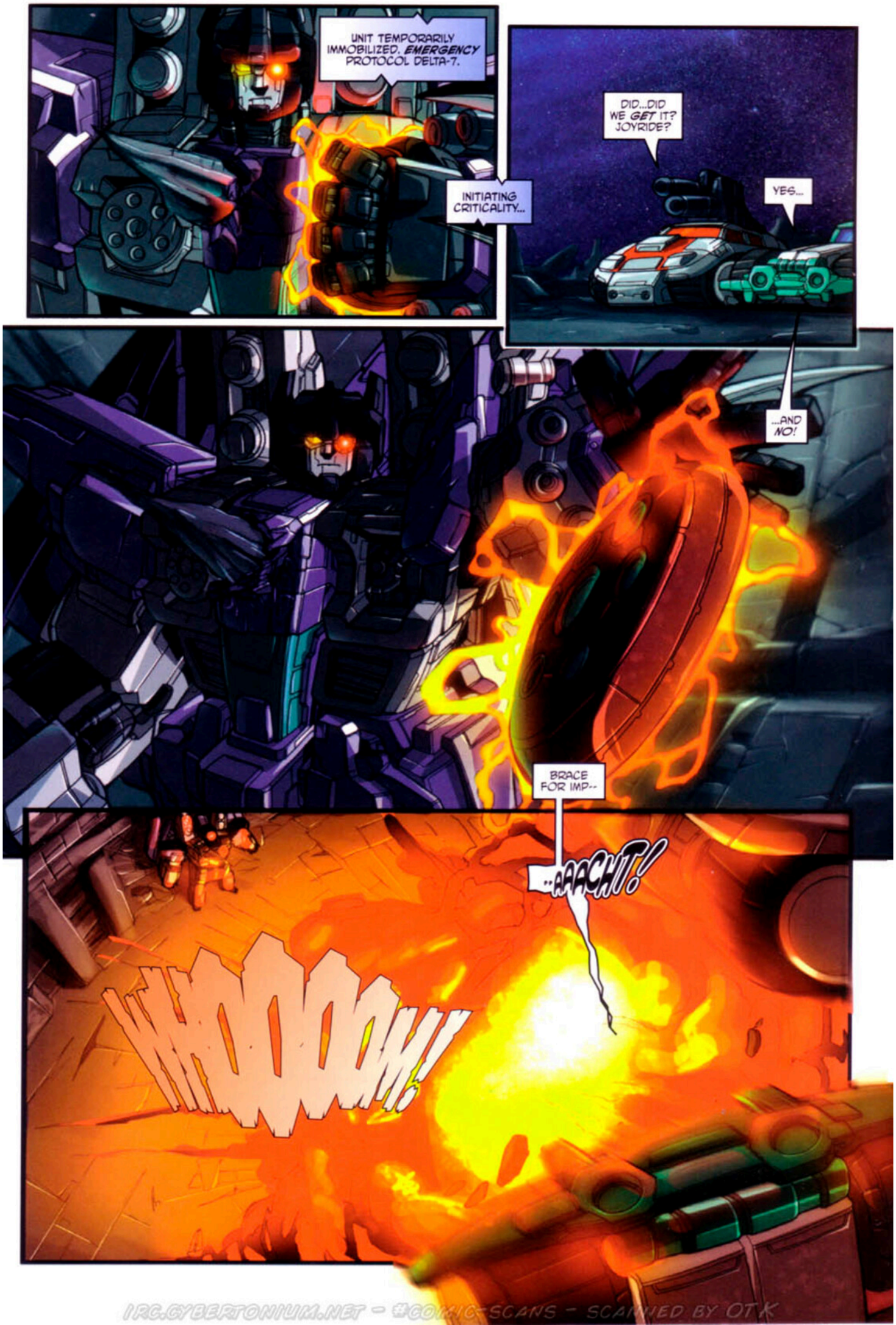

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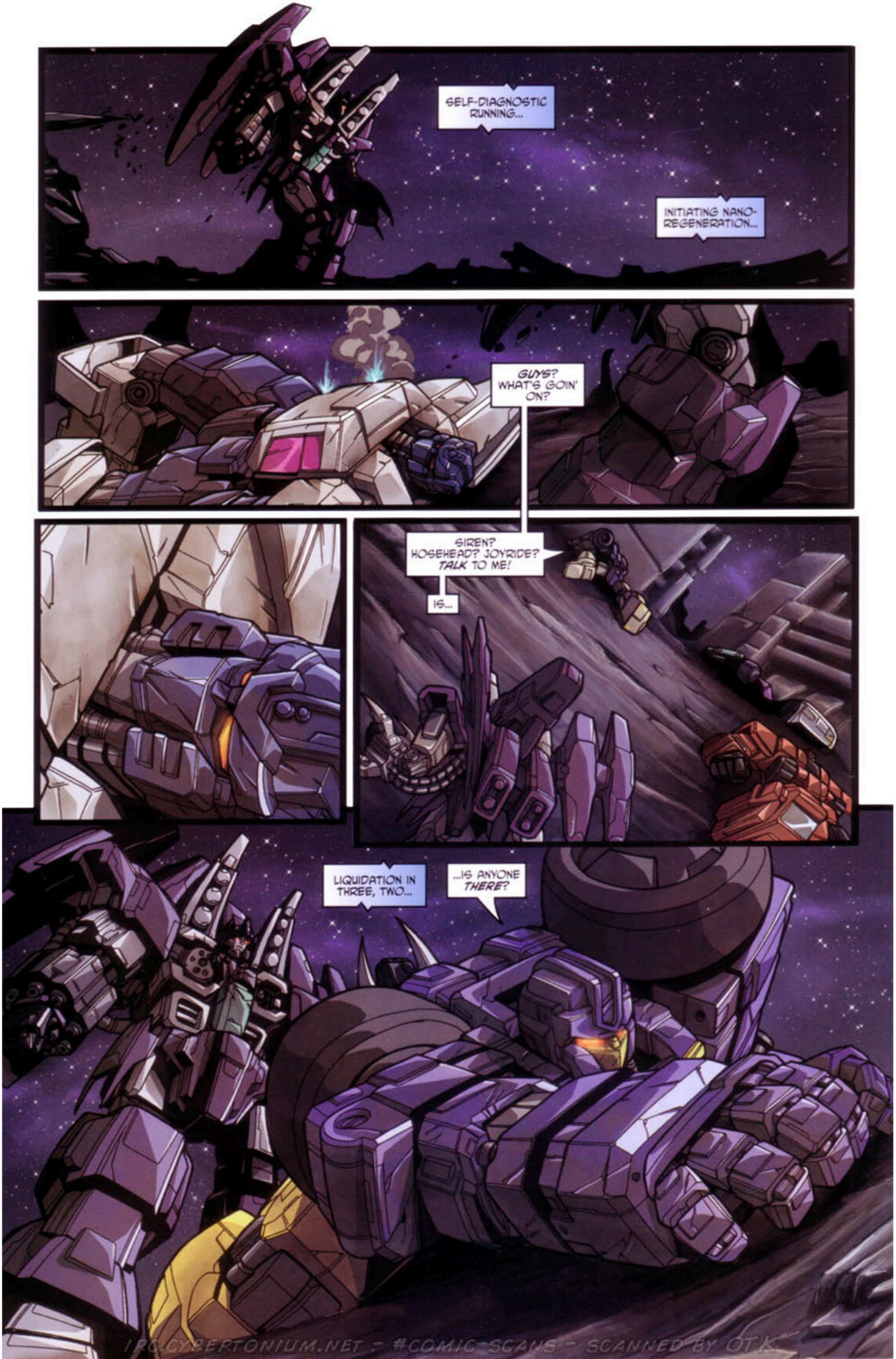

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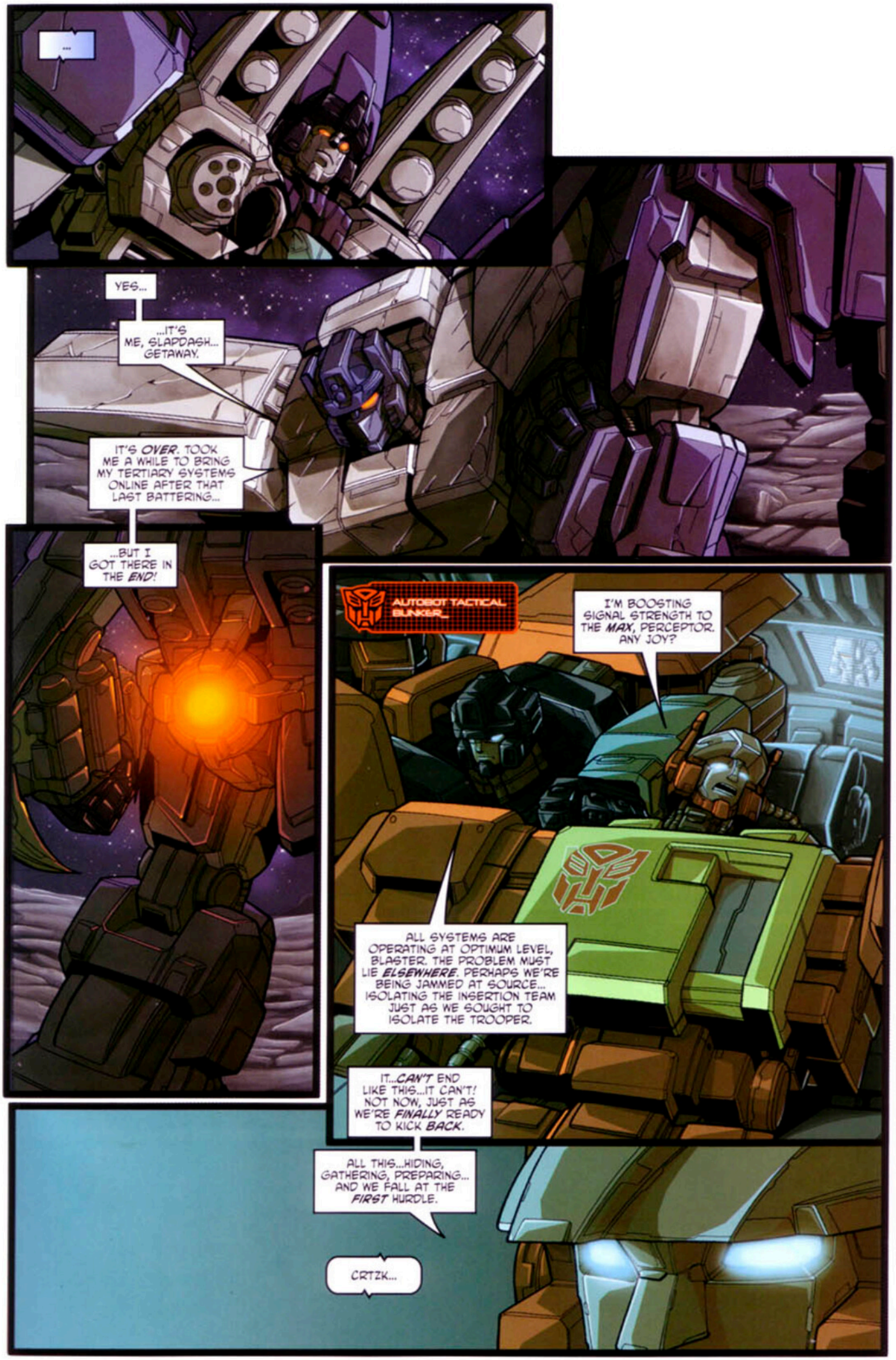

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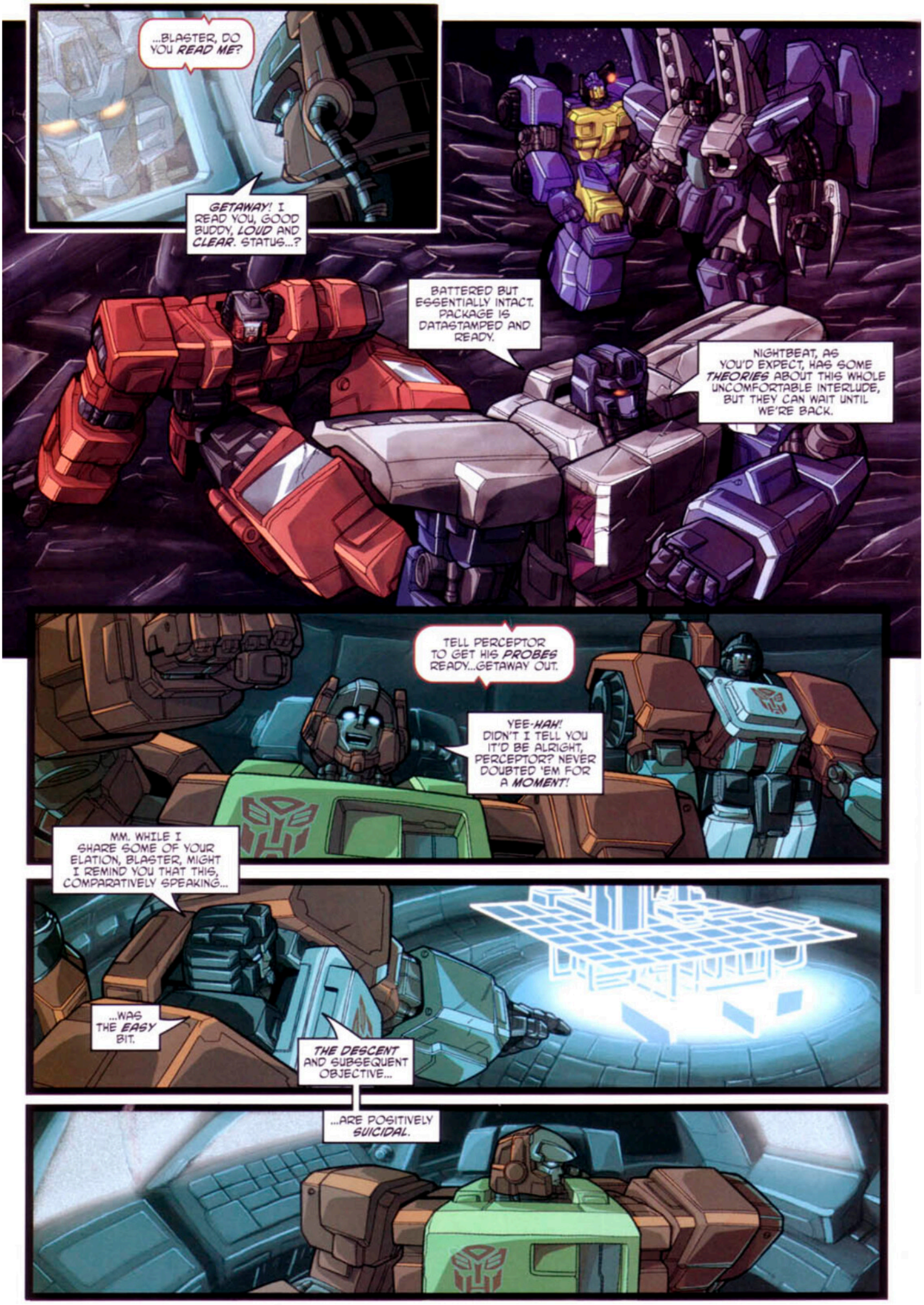

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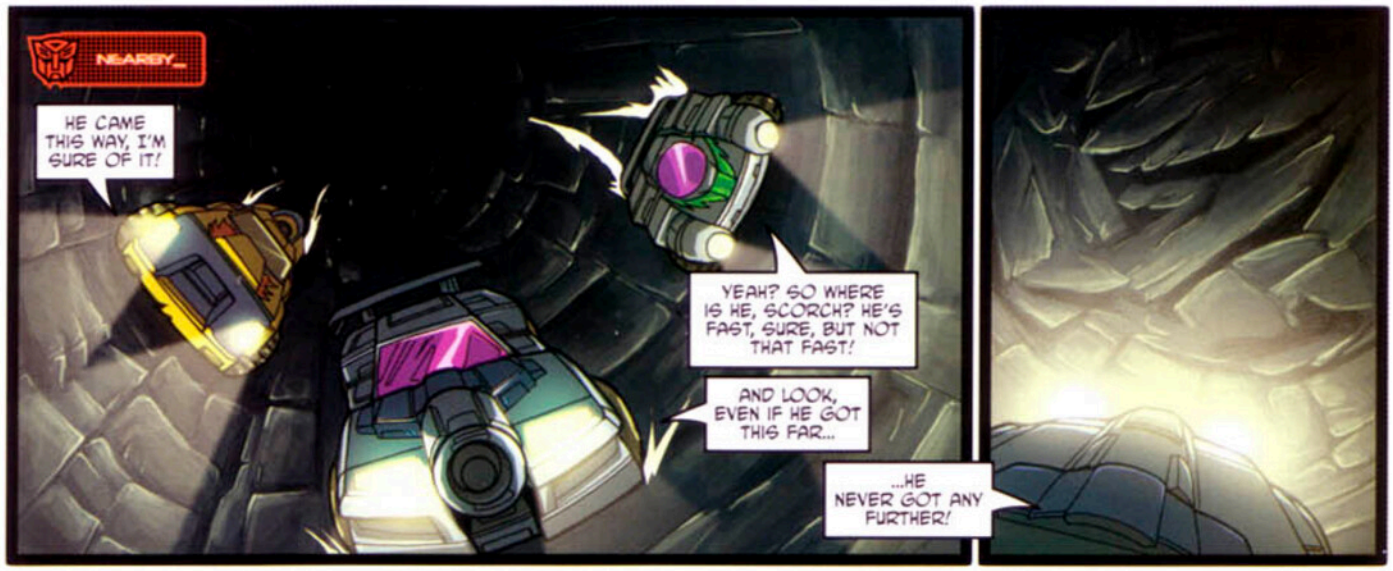

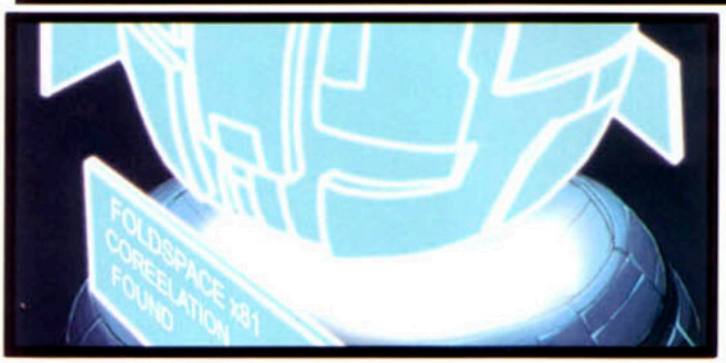

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TRANSFORMERS: WAR WITHIN c/o Dreamwave Productions
11 Allstate Parkway, Suite 200
Markham, Ontario, L3R 9T8, Canada
e-mail: tfwarwithin@dreamwaveprod.net

DECLARATIONS OF WAR

Welcome back Transfans!
Plenty of good questions and eager eagle-eyed readers giving their two cents this month:

Hi Dreamwave,
After the third *War Within* will it become monthly ongoing?

John
Birmingham, AL

For now, *War Within* will remain an annual mini-series. By keeping it down to six issues a year, we can guarantee each volume is fresh and exciting. It's not just a thrill for the fans when the new volume is announced, but for all the creators and staff at DW too—it's our favorite "prequel" ever!

However, that being said, it's definitely tempting to consider making it an ongoing—there are a lot of Transformer stories waiting to be told.

Hi Dreamwave,
The sum of the various members of the factions listed above equals a grand total of 88 Transformers—compared to the 350 or more Transformers that are available in the Transformer Universe.

The Great War has been going on for a long, long time and I'm expected to believe that characters like Outback, Swerve and the aforementioned Bumper have just been sitting around playing cards the whole time?

I always liked the idea that the total planet was at war. It was a war you couldn't escape from no matter how hard you tried. But this concept of "rookies" being introduced in *G1* just takes away from the wealth of characters that can be used in *War Within*. If these guys are just spectators at this point in time, where are they and what are they doing?

I can go with the Mini-Spies not being directly included in the war, for they have been noted for being too small and weak to be able to withstand the physical pressures of direct combat. But to believe that a (for lack of a better term) full grown Transformer is merely munchin' on Energon cubes for several million years is very ridiculous.

Arthur Williams

This has been asked before: Why aren't more characters used? Why is so-and-so always there and not such-and-such? It's true there are lots of 'bots to play with and trust me, we're trying to give as many airtime as we can. Essentially, remember this—it's a big planet. The faction members aren't all in one place at one time.

Hello gang,
Given the characteristic of Grimlock in the present time/*G1* era and in the past from *WW Volume 1* and *Volume 2*, I find it a little bit unconvincing that Grimlock would sacrifice himself in order to save Magnus and preserve peace. This is so not like Grimlock, I can see if it's some other bots.

So, the question is, what did Magnus do in order to earn Grimlock's trust? Did he save Grimlock at one point? What's your speculation?

In *War and Peace*, we saw Magnus blast Grimlock to the face, but only to repair him back.

Well I hope Furman revealed some back story regarding these two. We know Grimlock doesn't like Prime much, but he's okay with Magnus.

Reminator

Grimmy has always been a noble warrior who would prefer to go down in a blaze of glory than to not fight at all. (Sounds like another famous dinosaur-bot in another TF series eh?) That Grimlock sacrificed himself is pretty much inline with any warrior's sense of honor.

Our fun-loving Brit, Mr. Simon Furman, had this to add: "Magnus made no-nonsense decisions, tactical and otherwise, over the course of many years of conflict. As Magnus himself says, he 'won the pumps and processors of even his sternest critics'."

Hi top bots,
I have been with Transformers since the beginning and have to say you guys are doing great stuff for the most part. WW is a fresh start to see some of my fave bots kicking off in brand-new (old) bodies.

But I do have a few questions. I have just a couple of complaints. Why shy away from beast-like forms when Cybertron has (in other continuities) all sorts of animals; the likes of the Predacons could simply be mysterious throwbacks—not to mention the fact that other worlds exist in *TF* mythology and it seems unlikely only Earth would possess "lions" in one form or another.

And what about Optimus Prime? It feels a bit cheap to simply make up excuses for him to be out of action, why not simply send him off on other adventures while we get to witness the adventures of different TFs rather than depict Cybertron falling apart in the absence of prime. Sure he's the bigbot, but he's only got two arms and six tires, he can't be everywhere at once. I also wanted to say, for future WW designs please consider the likes of Arcee and Punch/CounterPunch.

Here's hoping Magnus stops moaning,

Robert

The key theme and interest point to *War Within* for readers and creators is a Cybertron that the Transformers have had no human/Earth influence yet. But that doesn't mean there are some animal-like alternate modes for some of the Transformers: Think about Ratbat, Ravage, and so on. Although they are not quite "Earth" animals, they are still beastly looking—but why? Well, that's not clear yet, so keep reading, Transfans...

As far as Op being out of the picture, the reasoning is exactly what you say: It gives the other characters chances to shine; which means we get to learn more about the origins of other key players in the world of Transformers.

MATT HANSEN
Copy Editor
Dreamwave Productions

#4 NEXT MONTH

ALONE! Stranded on a strange alien world, far, far from Cybertron, Turbomaster Flash is about to realise there really is no place like home... even when home is ruled by arch tyrant Megatron and his legions of clone warriors. The terrible truth behind the invasion and conquest of Cybertron is finally revealed. Now all Flash has to do is stay alive long enough to tell someone!

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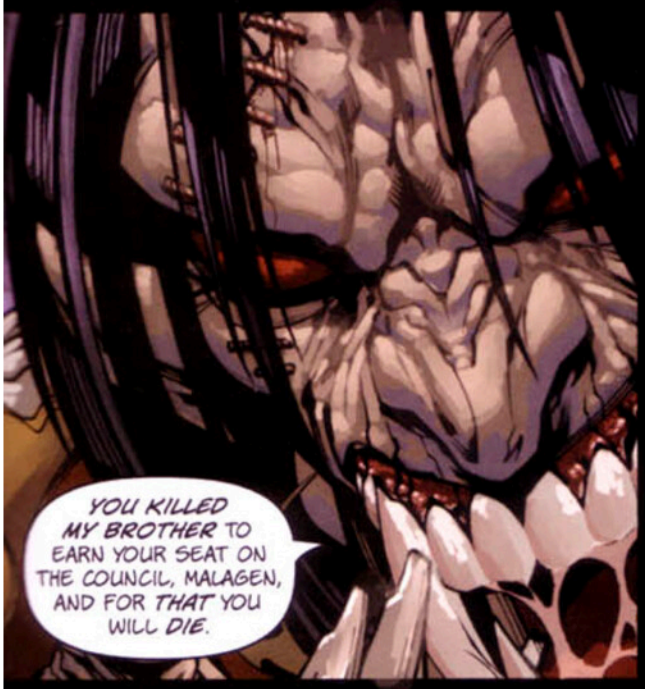
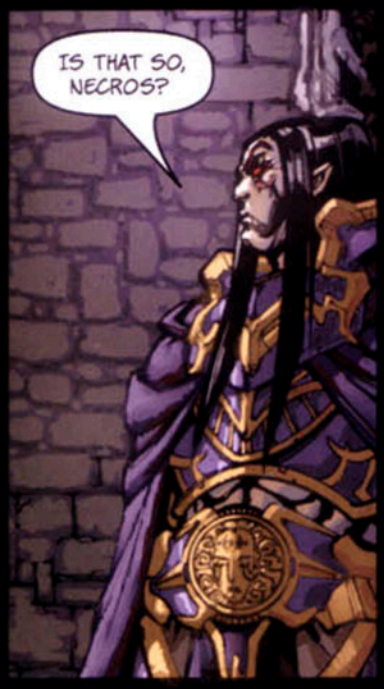
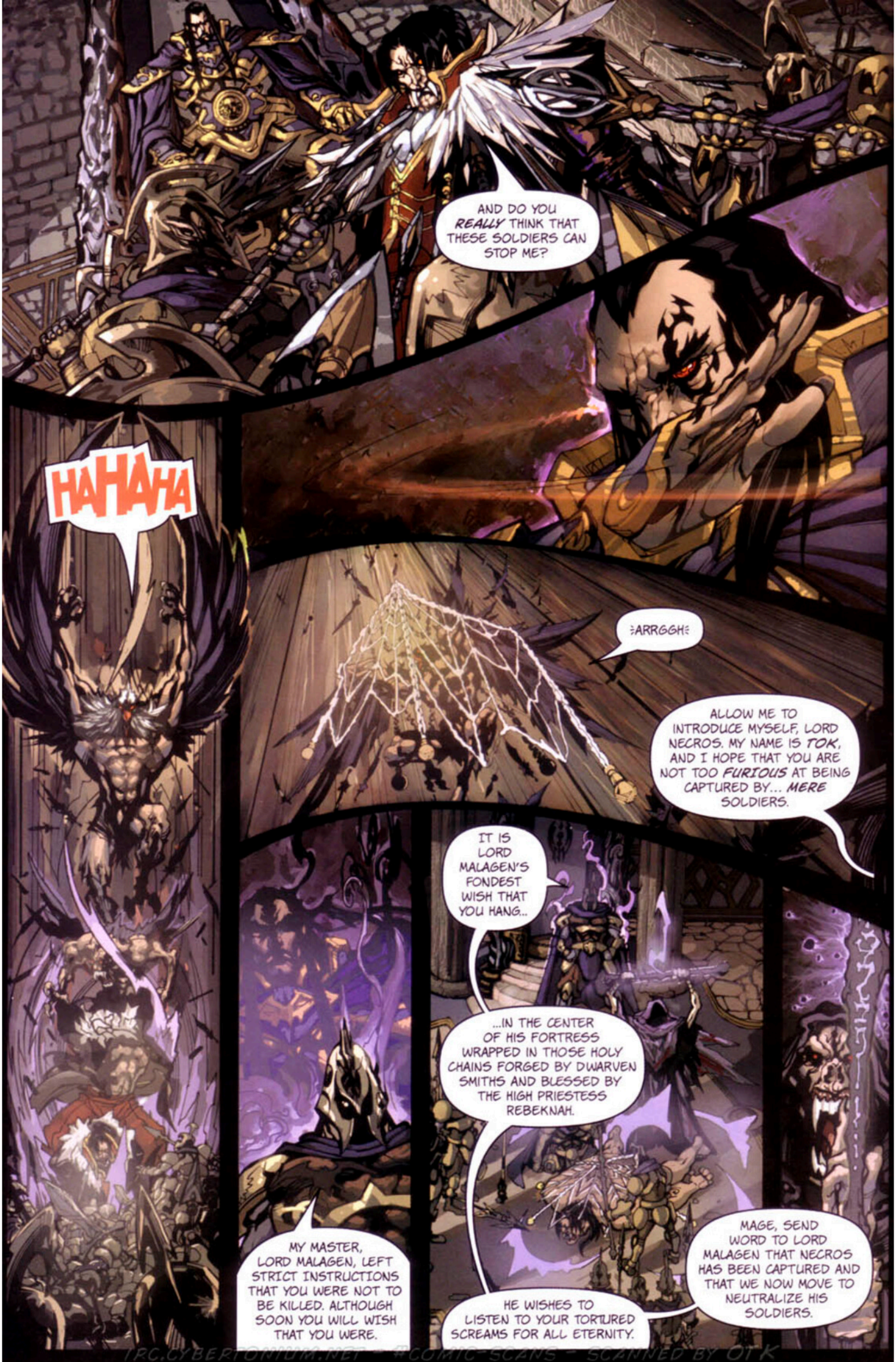
YOUR CAPTAINS, GENERALS, EVEN YOUR ARMY HAVE DESERTED YOU, MALAGEN.
YOU SIT ALONE IN YOUR BLACK FORTRESS. NONE WILL STAND IN YOUR DEFENSE.


YOU KILLED MY BROTHER TO EARN YOUR SEAT ON THE COUNCIL, MALAGEN, AND FOR THAT YOU WILL DIE.


IS THAT SO, NECROS?

WHAT IS THIS?

DID YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT MY LOYAL SUBJECTS WOULD EVER ABANDON ME?



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You know that the balance has been disrupted yet for you to force me to move would be a sign of weakness. Yes, you fear me. I see it in your eyes, Sladmortis. My campaign for world conquest has begun and in the end all knees shall bow to Lord Malagen, the Khan.

CONTINUED IN:

WARLANDS #1

MALAGEN'S CAMPAIGN

COMING JANUARY 2005!

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UNLEASH THE BEAST!

THE BEAST WARS BEGIN THIS JANUARY!

You asked for it, so you got it! *Dreamwave* is proud to announce a six-part series based on the popular toyline by Hasbro and successful television series by *Mainframe Entertainment*. The new title comes after the sellout of *Dreamwave's* incredible *TRANSFORMERS Summer Special*, when fans were asked which title they'd prefer to see in an upcoming mini-series: *TRANSFORMERS BEAST WARS* or *TRANSFORMERS ROBOTS IN DISGUISE*. *BEAST WARS* anihilated the competition, taking 80% of the vote!

The series, which takes place years after *GENERATION ONE*, follows the adventures of OPTIMUS PRIMAL and his MAXIMALS (descendants of the AUTOBOTS) versus MEGATRON and his PREDACONS (descendants of the DECEPTICONS). For such an exciting and pivotal series in the *TRANSFORMERS* comic continuity, *Dreamwave* turned to a star-studded cast of creators. Leading the charge are the *TRANSFORMERS* experts themselves, **James McDonough** and **Adam Patyk**. McDonough and Patyk are part of the amazing success of *Dreamwave's GENERATION ONE* and *MICROMASTERS* series, and are without a doubt the perfect writers to fill in the gaps of the *BEAST WARS* saga. Another well-known name will tackle the pencils: **Don Figueroa**. Figueroa, whose art has been attached to pretty much every *Dreamwave TF* title, is perfect for the job; he's quite possibly the biggest Transfan alive. When asked what it feels like to draw the characters that spearheaded the revival of *TRANSFORMERS* into the mainstream, Figueroa was philosophical as always.

"The first time I saw the series, I said, 'What is this new show?' They transform, the leaders had very familiar names and looked similar but I was so surprised to see animals as their alternate modes, not vehicles. But from the first episode I was hooked. This series was groundbreaking and it is amazing that we get to bring it to comic book form."

TRANSFORMERS BEAST WARS #1 will be hitting the shelves in **January 2005** and will mark the beginning of a very special and exciting year for *Dreamwave*. From now until its New Year launch, *Dreamwave* will be celebrating the long awaited arrival of *BEAST WARS*, so keep checking www.DreamwaveProd.com for more info!

NOVEMBER NECESSITIES:

KILLZONE #1

TRANSFORMERS 20th ANNIVERSARY MEGALITHO

TF ENERGON #29

TF ENERGON VOL.2 POCKET BOOK

TF G1: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE VOL.2 TPB

TF GENERATION ONE #11

TF/GI JOE "DIVIDED FRONT" #2 of 6

TF/GI JOE VOL.1 POCKET BOOK

TF WAR WITHIN "THE AGE OF WRATH" #3 of 6

FROM THE DESK OF ERNST DABEL

BASE OF OPERATIONS:
Atlanta, Georgia

CURRENT/UPCOMING PROJECTS:
Writer: *Warlands, New Spring (The Wheel of Time)*

NUMBER OF FANTASY NOVELS YOU READ:
Over 300

FUNNIEST DREAMWAVE MOMENT:
First time that I met Pat Lee after having harassed him by email for over a year!

BADDEST WARLANDS VILLAIN:
Lord Malagen

First of all, I want to say that I'm extremely honored to have been given the opportunity to write Warlands. It is something that I take very seriously, and I feel a great sense of responsibility to show a side of Warlands that fans have never seen before. To me, eating, drinking, and sleeping all take the backseat to this project—it is that important to me. So before you read through an issue, I want you to first get your chocolate chip cookies and a glass of milk and put it somewhere close as you might end up lost somewhere in the world of Warlands.

Pat Lee is a man that my brothers and I have always looked up to. He has always been the guardian of Warlands and for him to entrust me with it means a lot to me. None of this would have been possible if he had not given us the green light. Thanks Pat!

I also want to thank everyone else at Dreamwave who has really been very supportive of me: Roger Lee, Graham Cruz, Candice Chan, Rich Young, Chung, Matt Moylan, and Matt Hansen who asked me to do "From the Desk Of". Special thanks also to: Chuck Sellner (Editor), Mike Raicht (Story Consultant), Romulo Soares of Lynx Studios, Edu Francisco (Artist), Etienne St-Laurent (Colorist) and Bill Tortolini (letterer). Lastly, I want to thank my brother Les who first got me into fantasy by getting me J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit" for Christmas back when I was in the sixth grade, and God for touching my mind and fingers and giving me the inspiration that I needed so that I could commit this Warlands series to paper.

ERNST DABEL
Writer, Warlands

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